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Researchers earn top USAF Science Awards

by Conrad E. Dziewulski, Directed Energy Directorate

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.— Researchers at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate recently were named recipients of prestigious Air Force honors for scientific accomplishments.

Dr. Jane M. Lehr received the U.S. Basic Research Award while the Raven Small Telescope Team and the High-Power Microwave Source Antenna Team received Air Force Science and Engineering Awards in separate categories on September 4th.

Lehr, a senior scientist in the High-Power Microwave Division, will be honored for her pioneering practical and theoretical work in ultrafast switching and compact pulsed power. Within two years, her research with pulsed power and electromagnetics surpassed the achievements of the previous 15 years.

Last May, she was named an Outstanding New Mexico Woman for her professional accomplishments and community involvement. On September 22, Lehr was one of two women inducted into the New Mexico Women's Hall of Fame by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women.

Lehr, a directorate employee since 1997, has master and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering and plasma physics from Polytechnic Institute of New York.

Her award honors the scientific efforts and achievements in basic research and recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding and significant contribution in basic research.

The Raven team of Paul W. Kervin, Capt Robin E. Orth and Tech Sgt David L. Covey designed a low-cost operational telescope system from readily available commercial, astronomical components at the Space Surveillance System Branch, Maui, Hawaii. They received the award in the Engineering Achievement category.

The team also demonstrated that the system could meet deep-space track requirements and freed larger telescopes at the complex for more demanding tasks.

The High-Power Microwave Source Antenna team of Dr. Kyle J. Hendricks, Dr. Michael D. Haworth and Dr. John W. Luginsland received the award in the Exploratory or Advanced Technology Development category. The team successfully mated a billion-watt class, high-power microwave antenna with a compact pulsed power system that lead to a better understanding of the physics and engineering issues of these compact systems.

The Science and Engineering Award recognizes "working level" Air Force personnel for their outstanding contributions in research, development or engineering. @